

# Requirements for Indoor Theaters

August 10, 2020



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

# Benchmarks

There are two key components to resuming business operations. First is the quality of the establishment's implementation of COVID-19 mitigation strategies. This plan outlines mitigation strategies tailored for specific types of business operations. Business must attest to their implementation of these strategies prior to operating. The second is the level of spread occurring in the community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines community spread as follows:

**Minimal Community Spread:** Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting.

**Moderate Community Spread:** Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases.

**Substantial Community Spread:** Large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces).

ADHS further defines community spread levels with the thresholds outlined below. These thresholds are consistent with the national standards set by the Coronavirus Task Force.

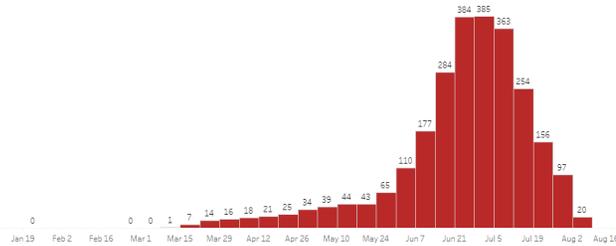
Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases	<10 cases/100,000	10-100 cases/100,000	>100 cases/100,000
Percent Positivity	<5%	5-10%	≥10%
Covid Like Illness	<5%	5-10%	>10%

# Understanding the Benchmarks

## Cases

**Benchmark:** Two weeks below 100 cases per 100,000

Rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population by week

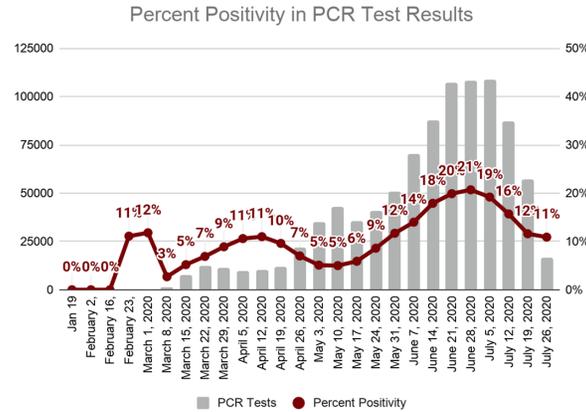


**Data Source:** ADHS MEDSIS Confirmed and Probable Cases

**Available by:** County

## Percent Positivity

**Benchmark:** Two weeks with percent positivity below 10%

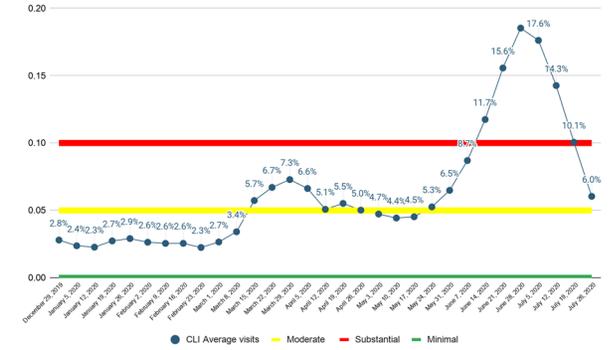


**Data Source:** ADHS Electronic Laboratory Data

**Available by:** County

## COVID-like Illness

**Benchmark:** Two weeks with hospital visits due to COVID-like illness below 10%



**Data Source:** BioSense Syndromic Surveillance Platform

**Available by:** BioSense Region

- Northern:** Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai Counties
- Central:** Gila, Maricopa, Pinal Counties
- Southeastern:** Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz Counties
- Western:** La Paz, Mohave, Yuma Counties

# Requirements for Indoor Theaters

## ADHS Requirements for Indoor Theaters

### Indoor Theaters

Community Spread Level	Occupancy	Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	Enhanced Cleaning	Proper Ventilation	Symptom Screening for Staff	Physical Distancing (6 feet)	Masks	Concession Area Policies	Child Care Policies
Minimal	50% until < 3% positivity	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Moderate	50%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Substantial	Closed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance**, under all circumstances, the following **precautions must be taken by people** visiting indoor theaters:



**Stay home if you are sick.**



**Protect yourself while visiting indoor theaters:**

- Arizonans are safer at home and should evaluate their personal risk of using a theater based on the [Arizona COVID-19 Risk Index](#).
- Avoid close contact and stay more than 6 feet away from others.
- You are required to wear a mask while at the establishment at all times, except while actively eating or drinking.
  - Masks should not be placed on children less than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
- Wash your hands often, especially after leaving the theater, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) and immediately throw the tissue in the trash.
- If possible, use touchless payment methods. If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer immediately after.
- If you are at [higher risk](#) for severe illness, you should avoid visiting indoor theaters. People at higher risk for [severe illness](#) include adults 65 or older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions.

**The Arizona Department of Health Services** requires the following additional steps be taken by **indoor theaters** and operators shall take measures to ensure that employees and guests follow these guidelines:

- ✓ **Enforce physical distancing of more than 6 feet between customers who do not live in the same household.**
  - Implement occupancy limitations as required based on the community transmission category within the county your establishment operates.
    - **Substantial:** closed unless special dispensation received from ADHS
    - **Moderate:** 50% of the permitted fire code occupant load with ADHS prescribed mitigation requirements
    - **Minimal:** 50% occupancy with ADHS mitigation requirements until < 3% positivity
  - Limit groups of household members to no more than 10.
  - Limit seating to alternate rows.
  - Clearly mark chairs that are not in use.
  - Close communal spaces and common areas where people are likely to congregate and interact.
    - If unable to close the area, restrict access and have employees staff the area to enforce physical distancing.
  - Maintain clearly marked 6-foot spacing marks and/or signage along concession areas, entrances, ticket lines, waiting areas, lobbies, hallways, patios, and restrooms and any other location within the theater where queues may form or patrons may congregate.
  - Enforce similar physical distancing requirements in employee-only spaces, such as break or dining rooms, uniform control areas, and shared office spaces. Consider closing or restricting access to these spaces.
  
- ✓ **Require customers and staff to wear masks at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.**
  
- ✓ **Provide access to soap and water for handwashing or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, containing at least 60% alcohol, at clearly marked stations around the theater for use by employees and clients. Require employees to regularly wash hands for at least 20 seconds.**

- ☑ **Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, disinfecting wipes, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.**
  
- ☑ **Schedule staggered showtimes to prevent congregating in waiting areas.**
  
- ☑ **Consider requiring online reservations for shows and limit the number of guests in the theater to allow for appropriate physical distancing.**
  - Do not conduct back-to-back shows. It is recommended that no less than 15 minutes elapses between shows to allow for full sanitization and to prevent crowding from participants entering/exiting the area.
  - Time between shows is needed to allow for the air to recirculate and for staff to thoroughly clean spaces and equipment between showings and provide proper ventilation.
  
- ☑ **Arrange concession areas, entrances, ticket lines, waiting areas, lobbies, and hallways to enforce physical distancing.**
  - Do not allow customers to wait in concession areas, entrances, ticket lines, waiting areas, lobbies, or hallways.
  - Assign staff to monitor areas where customers may congregate to enforce physical distancing.
  - Sanitize areas regularly between use.
  
- ☑ **Concession areas must:**
  - Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces, food preparation surfaces, and beverage equipment after each use.
  - Eliminate items that are shared by customers, such as self-serve condiments, butter dispensers, popcorn flavorings, and any other food. Instead, use single serving condiments, and no-touch trash cans and doors.
  
- ☑ **Do not provide alcohol other than at a concession area with clean glasses.**
  - Wash, rinse, and sanitize beverage equipment after each use.
  - Consider using single-use beverage equipment.
  
- ☑ **Post signs educating customers and employees of expectations and guidance.**
  - Post signage at entrances about how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, and practice other protective measures, properly use masks.
  - Post signage at the entrance of public health advisories prohibiting individuals who are symptomatic from entering the premises.

- ✓ **Wipe any counters or hard surfaces between use or customer.**
- ✓ **Avoid using or sharing items such as menus, condiments, and any other food. Instead, use disposable or digital menus, single-serving condiments, and no-touch trash cans and doors.**
- ✓ **Wipe any touchpads between each use.**
- ✓ **Implement comprehensive sanitation protocols.**
  - Schedule sufficient time to sanitize in between showings.
  - Sanitize chairs, armrests, beverage holders, handrails, and any other items that a customer may touch between each use.
- ✓ **Ensure that ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly.**
  - Increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods.
- ✓ **Where possible, implement one-way traffic for entrance to and egress from the facility.**
- ✓ **For theaters that offer on-premise child care:**
  - ADHS recommends avoiding gatherings if physical distancing of more than 6 feet between people who do not live together cannot be maintained.
  - If on-premise child care must be provided:
    - Limit the number of children to prevent transmission.
    - Maintain physical distancing of more than 6 feet between each child who are not from the same household.
    - Implement symptom screening and temperature checks of staff AND participants, especially children who might not be capable of staying more than 6 feet apart from people they do not live with.
    - Stagger drop-off and pick-up times, as much as possible, to maintain a distance of more than 6 feet between people who do not live together.
    - Eliminate the sharing of equipment such as toys and supplies among children who do not live in the same household.
    - Ask parents to consider if their children are capable of staying more than 6 feet apart from people they do not live with before taking them to a public venue.
    - Follow the CDC guidance for [Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#).

**The Arizona Department of Health Services** requires the following additional steps be taken by **staff**:

- ✓ **Require sick employees to stay home and not return to work until they have met criteria to return to work.**
  - Employees who appear to have symptoms or who become ill while at work should immediately be separated from others and sent home.
  - Document and communicate sick leave policies to employees and staff.
- ✓ **Consider implementing flexible sick leave policies that permit adherence to public health isolation and quarantine guidance.**
- ✓ **Require employees to wear masks at all times.**
- ✓ **Implement symptom screening for employees prior to the start of their shift, and conduct temperature checks at the door.**
- ✓ **Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.**
- ✓ **Ensure that all employees are notified of new facility rules and any changes in rules.**
- ✓ **Ensure that employees maintain more than 6 feet of separation from other individuals, when possible.**
- ✓ **Provide adequate supplies in employee workspaces to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, disinfecting wipes, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.**
- ✓ **Enforce physical distancing requirements in employee-only spaces, such as break rooms and shared office spaces.**
- ✓ **Train all staff on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, physical distancing requirements, and respiratory etiquette.**
- ✓ **Have employees or volunteers maintain more than 6 feet separation from other individuals.**
- ✓ **Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees in accordance with public health recommendations.**
- ✓ **See [Department of Labor and Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) COVID-19 guidance for employers and workers.](#)**

The list of EPA-approved disinfectant products for emerging viral pathogens expected to be effective against COVID-19 can be accessed [here](#).

For additional guidance on cleaning, visit CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#) page and CDC's [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes](#).

## **For COVID-19 questions, please call the Arizona COVID-19 Hotline at: 1-844-542-8201**

Businesses impacted by E.O. 2020-43 and 2020-52 are required to complete an attestation prior to resuming operations. Approval for resuming operations is dependent upon community transmission within the county the establishment is physically located and the establishment's implementation of ADHS required mitigation steps. Further information can be found in the [ADHS COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses](#).

Any business affected by these provisions may request an informal settlement conference to dispute their categorization on reopening. A denial after an informal settlement conference becomes a final agency action that is appealable to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

For more information on Arizona's response to COVID-19, please visit: [azhealth.gov/COVID19](https://azhealth.gov/COVID19).